

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-10 are rejected. Claims 1-10 are cancelled and new claims 11-16 are added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for instance in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Improper Markush Rejection

Claims 1-10 are rejected as being improper Markush claims in the definition of the B-C linker. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in light of the amendments as indicated herein. Applicant urges withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees, especially considering the Preliminary Amendment filed October 8, 2003. However, Applicant also points out that this rejection is now moot in view of the amendments indicated herein. Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other additional fees, which may be required with respect to this paper referencing Attorney Docket No. 026220-00014.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans J. Crosby', is written over a horizontal line.

Hans J. Crosby
Registration No. 44,634

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000; Fax: (202) 638-4810

HJC/ccd